

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL ANTHONY LEYVA,  
Petitioner,  
v.  
RAUL MORALES,  
Respondent.

Case No. 1:25-cv-00072-EPG-HC

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION TO  
DISMISS PETITION FOR WRIT OF  
HABEAS CORPUS WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

**ORDER DIRECTING CLERK OF COURT  
TO ASSIGN DISTRICT JUDGE**

Petitioner Michael Anthony Leyva is a state prisoner proceeding *pro se* with a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. As Petitioner has not exhausted his state court remedies, the undersigned recommends dismissing the petition for writ of habeas corpus without prejudice for nonexhaustion.

I.

## BACKGROUND

On January 15, 2025, Petitioner filed the instant petition for writ of habeas corpus. (ECF No. 1.) On January 17, 2025, the Court ordered Petitioner to show cause why the petition should not be dismissed as unexhausted. (ECF No. 3.) On January 31, 2025, Petitioner filed his response. (ECF No. 4.)

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II.

## DISCUSSION

3 The Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases (“Habeas Rules”) require preliminary review  
4 of a habeas petition and allow a district court to dismiss a petition before the respondent is  
5 ordered to file a response, if it “plainly appears from the petition and any attached exhibits that  
6 the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court.” Rule 4, Rules Governing Section 2254  
7 Cases in the United States District Courts, 28 U.S.C. foll. § 2254.

8 A petitioner in state custody who is proceeding with a petition for writ of habeas corpus  
9 must exhaust state judicial remedies. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1). The exhaustion doctrine is based  
10 on comity to the state court and gives the state court the initial opportunity to correct the state's  
11 alleged constitutional deprivations. Coleman v. Thompson, 501 U.S. 722, 731 (1991); Rose v.  
12 Lundy, 455 U.S. 509, 518 (1982). A petitioner can satisfy the exhaustion requirement by  
13 providing the highest state court with a full and fair opportunity to consider each claim before  
14 presenting it to the federal court. O'Sullivan v. Boerckel, 526 U.S. 838, 845 (1999); Duncan v.  
15 Henry, 513 U.S. 364, 365 (1995); Picard v. Connor, 404 U.S. 270, 276 (1971).

16 In the petition, Petitioner raises the following claims for relief: (1) substantial amount of  
17 media coverage; (2) prior manslaughter conviction was used overly, repeatedly, and  
18 prominently; (3) media influence over jurors; and (4) witness was not credible. (ECF No. 1 at  
19 5.<sup>1</sup>) Although Petitioner asserts that “all claim[s are] clearly exhausted,” the petition for review  
20 filed in the California Supreme Court did not include any of these claims. (Id. at 5, 22.) In the  
21 petition for review, Petitioner only raised the following claims: (1) instructional error; (2) abuse  
22 of discretion in declining to dismiss prior strike; and (3) imposition of fines and fees without  
23 determination of Petitioner’s ability to pay. (Id. at 22.) It is possible that Petitioner has presented  
24 his claims to the California Supreme Court and failed to indicate this to the Court. However, in  
25 his response to the order to show cause, Petitioner merely restated the claims he now raises in his  
26 petition and did not address exhaustion at all. Accordingly, it appears that Petitioner failed to  
27 exhaust his claims. If Petitioner has not sought relief in the California Supreme Court for the

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<sup>28</sup> <sup>1</sup> Page numbers refer to the ECF page numbers stamped at the top of the page.

1 claims that he raises in the instant petition, the Court cannot proceed to the merits of those  
2 claims. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1).

3 **III.**

4 **RECOMMENDATION & ORDER**

5 Based on the foregoing, the undersigned HEREBY RECOMMENDS that the petition for  
6 writ of habeas corpus be DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

7 Further, the Clerk of Court is DIRECTED to randomly ASSIGN a District Court Judge to  
8 the present matter.

9 This Findings and Recommendation is submitted to the assigned United States District  
10 Court Judge, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636 (b)(1)(B) and Rule 304 of the Local  
11 Rules of Practice for the United States District Court, Eastern District of California. Within  
12 **THIRTY (30) days** after service of the Findings and Recommendation, Petitioner may file  
13 written objections, **no longer than fifteen (15) pages, including exhibits**, with the Court and  
14 serve a copy on all parties. Such a document should be captioned “Objections to Magistrate  
15 Judge’s Findings and Recommendation.” The assigned United States District Court Judge will  
16 then review the Magistrate Judge’s ruling pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C). The parties are  
17 advised that failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the  
18 District Court’s order. Wilkerson v. Wheeler, 772 F.3d 834, 839 (9th Cir. 2014) (citing Baxter v.  
19 Sullivan, 923 F.2d 1391, 1394 (9th Cir. 1991)).

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21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 Dated: March 13, 2025

23 /s/ *Eric P. Gruj*  
24 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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